

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION



A meeting of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership.

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INTRODUCTION

BLM's work on the Empire-Cienega Integrated Management Plan--an amendment to the Phoenix Resource Management Plan (RMP)--involved two major phases. During the first phase BLM officially began work on the plan amendment on March 24, 1989, with a *Federal Register* Notice of Intent to prepare a plan amendment/environmental impact statement. A 30-day scoping comment period followed scoping meetings on April 11 and 12, 1989, in Sonoita and Tucson, Arizona. BLM received 98 responses, including 60 comment letters and 38 letters requesting more information as it became available. BLM then formulated the planning issues and criteria and, on July 20, 1990, mailed an RMP amendment update to the public. Enclosed were the issues and planning criteria. The comment period on the criteria and issues ended on August 20, 1990.

BLM suspended the planning effort in December 1991 when it administratively transferred the lands under consideration from its Phoenix District to its Safford District. Due to the change in administration of the Empire-Cienega lands, BLM's Safford District restructured the planning effort to the Safford RMP and held the following public meetings:

- December 15, 1992 in Eloy, Arizona
- December 16, 1992 in Elgin, Arizona
- December 17, 1992 in Tucson, Arizona

At these meetings the BLM's interdisciplinary planning team presented details on the three

alternatives that it had drafted for the Empire-Cienega Planning Area.

BLM again put the plan amendment on hold while it undertook several large projects, including the Arizona Wild and Scenic Rivers EIS in 1993-1994. BLM also worked on other agency reorganizations which resulted in more organizational changes for the BLM's Tucson Office. During this time, BLM as an agency was changing and was placing new emphasis on ecosystem approaches to planning and management.

In 1995, BLM began the second phase of work on the Empire-Cienega plan amendment. Because it was managing lands administered by the new Tucson Field Office, but managed under both the Phoenix and Safford RMPs, BLM decided to return to the approach of amending the Phoenix RMP in completing an RMP amendment for the Empire-Cienega Planning Area. These lands were within the old Phoenix Planning Unit, and an appendix to the Phoenix RMP included interim management guidance for the Empire-Cienega Planning Area.

BLM's Tucson Field Office decided to take a new collaborative approach to the plan amendment. This approach led to the forming of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP). SVPP is an informal, voluntary association of public and private participants (federal, state, and local agencies, organized groups, and individuals) who share a common interest in the future of public land resources in the Sonoita Valley. The mailing list for the earlier work on the plan amendment became a source for generating invitations to participate in the community potluck and workshop that led to the creation of this partnership.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION

PUBLIC MEETINGS/OPEN HOUSES

BLM conducted scoping during Phase 1 of the Empire-Cienega Plan Amendment through a series of public open houses:

April 11, 1989--Sonoita, Arizona

April 12, 1989--Tucson, Arizona

BLM conducted more scoping in Phase 2 of the planning effort during the community potluck, community workshop, and the first meetings of the working groups of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership as detailed in the following chronology.

Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership Chronology

In January 1995, BLM brought together people from federal, state, and local agencies with an interest in the Sonoita area to discuss forming a partnership to work with the community on public land issues. All participants had a strong interest in the valley. This meeting was followed by a community potluck in April 1995. Agencies and groups were then invited to put up displays of their activities in the Sonoita area. Participants toured sites in the valley and filled out questionnaires on their concerns for the valley's future.

In July 1995, the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership held a community workshop to review the questionnaire results and discuss other Sonoita Valley issues. Workshop participants decided to have the partnership deal only with issues involving public lands surrounding the Sonoita Valley and to defer issues of growth management and private land concerns to another effort. They formed three working groups to confront issues relating to:

(1) wildlife-vegetation, (2) water-minerals, and (3) people.

The working groups met monthly from August to December 1995. During this time the working groups developed desired future condition descriptions: visions, goals, and objectives for upland vegetation, riparian vegetation, aquatic habitats, fish and wildlife, cultural resources, and recreation opportunities.

In December 1995, the working groups gave a joint presentation on their visions, goals, objectives, and categorization of issues. Group members also decided to merge the water-minerals and wildlife-vegetation groups into a natural resources working group and to continue to meet monthly. The Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership defined its area of concern as roughly the Cienega Creek watershed south of Interstate 10 and small portions of the upper watersheds of Sonoita Creek and the Babocomari River.

From January to September 1996, the working groups met monthly. They refined resource objectives. They participated in technical presentations on fire management, wildlife management, grasslands, riparian vegetation and cultural resources. They worked on the preliminary development of management strategies.

In September 1996, the groups gave another joint presentation on achievements in objectives and management strategies and decided to have all working groups meet together to finalize their objectives and develop alternative management strategies. From November 1996 to May 1997, the Partnership in monthly meetings refined and agreed on the wording of their resource objectives, which they wrote so that managers or owners could apply them to any lands within the Partnership's focus area in the upper Cienega Creek basin.

From June 1997 to October 1998, the Partnership's monthly meetings focused on developing and refining alternative management strategies to resolve issues and meet the resource objectives, mainly on the public lands within the planning area. In addition, several new subgroups were formed to work on the details of proposals and report back to the Partnership at regular monthly meetings.

From December 1998 to February 1999, the Partnership worked on achieving consensus on a preferred series of management strategies out of the alternative strategies it had developed.

From March 1999 to February 2000, the Partnership met four times (February, May, and September 1999 and February 2000) to develop a monitoring program for the Empire-Cienega Planning Area.

Dates of SVPP Meetings

Community Potluck:

April 22, 1995

Community Workshop:

July 22, 1995

Wildlife/Vegetation Working Group and Water/ Minerals Working Group Meetings:

August 19, 1995

September 16, 1995

October 14, 1995

November 11, 1995 (Wildlife/Vegetation)

November 18, 1995 (Water/Minerals)

December 9, 1995 (Joint Meeting of all Three Working Groups)

January 6, 1996 (Wildlife and Vegetation and Water and Minerals Working Groups are Combined)

February 10, 1996

March 9, 1996

April 13, 1996

June 8, 1996

July 20, 1996

August 10, 1996

September 14, 1996 (Joint Meeting of Two Working Groups)

People Working Group Meetings:

August 26, 1995

September 23, 1995

October 22, 1995

November 18, 1995

December 9, 1995 (Joint Meeting of Three Working Groups)

January 13, 1996

February 10, 1996

March 9, 1996

April 13, 1996

June 8, 1996

July 20, 1996

August 10, 1996

September 14, 1996 (Joint Meeting of Two Working Groups)

Planning Partnership Monthly Meetings:

November 9, 1996

January 11, 1997

February 8, 1997

March 8, 1997

April 12, 1997

May 10, 1997

June 14, 1997

July 12, 1997

August 9, 1997

September 13, 1997

October 11, 1997

November 8, 1997

January 10, 1998

February 14, 1998

Planning Partnership Monthly Meetings (continued):

March 14, 1998

April 11, 1998

May 30, 1998

June 13, 1998

July 11, 1998

August 8, 1998

September 19, 1998

October 17, 1998

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December 12, 1998
January 9, 1999
January 26, 1999
February 12, 1999
February 19, 1999
August 1999

Recreation Subgroup Meetings:

December 3, 1997
January 10, 1998
February 14, 1998
March 26, 1998
May 9, 1998
June 27, 1998
July 7, 1998
July 23, 1998
August 25, 1998

Monitoring Subgroup Meetings:

February 26, 1999
May 6, 1999
September 17, 1999

February 10, 2000 (Technical Workshop)

Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

BLM coordinated with the federal and state agencies listed in Table 5-1 while developing the draft plan.

Throughout the planning and EIS process, BLM will continue to coordinate and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on identifying and treating cultural resources and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.

Table 5-1
State and Federal Agencies Contacted for the Empire-Cienega Integrated Management Plan

State Agencies	Federal Agencies
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	U.S. Department of Defense, Fort Huachuca
Arizona Department of Water Resources	USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest*
Arizona Game and Fish Department*	U.S. Geological Survey*
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service*
Arizona State Land Department*	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service*
Arizona State Parks Department*	USDI National Park Service, Coronado National Memorial

*Agencies whose representatives were active participants in the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership.

Table 5-2
Tribal Governments Contacted for the Empire-Cienega Integrated Management Plan

Ak-Chin Indian Community	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community
Gila River Indian Community	San Carlos Apache Tribe
Members of the Hopi Tribe	Tohono O'Odham Nation
Mohave-Apache Tribal Council	Yavapai-Apache Tribe
Pascua Yaqui Council	White Mountain Apache Tribe

Coordination with Tribal Governments

While developing the draft plan BLM coordinated with the tribal governments or members of the communities, tribes, and nations listed in Table 5-2.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public outreach included presentations by members of the planning team to: Region 5 of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Game and Fish Commission, Arizona State Land Department, BLM Resource Advisory Council, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Heritage Public Advisory Committee, Empire Ranch Foundation, Green Valley High 12 Club, Society of Environmental Journalists, Sonoita Crossroads Community Forum, Natural Areas Association Conference, Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference, and Conference on Research and Management in the Southwest. BLM also led several tours for Arizona Senate and congressional representatives.

LIST OF PREPARERS

TUCSON FIELD OFFICE

Bill Auby, Geologist

B.S., Geology/Geophysics, University of Wisconsin, Madison. M.S., Geology, Northern Illinois University. Bill has worked for 8 years with the BLM. He prepared the geology, mineral development, and hazardous materials portions of the draft plan.

Susan Bernal, Realty Specialist

B.S., Regional Development, University of Arizona. Susan has worked for the BLM for 4 years. She prepared the lands sections of the draft plan, including utility rights-of-way and land use permits.

Vic Brown, District Ranger

B.A, Geography and Geology. Vic has 22 years of federal service with the National Park Service as a park ranger and with BLM as a district ranger. He provided input on resource, recreation, law enforcement, and regulations for the draft plan.

Grant Drennen, Range Specialist

B.S., Range Science/Watershed, Utah State University. Grant has 22 years of service with the BLM. He prepared the upland vegetation, fire, and livestock grazing sections of the draft plan.

Francisco Mendoza, Outdoor Recreation Planner

B.S., Landscape Architecture, University of Arizona. Francisco has 19 years of service with BLM. He helped with the input and analysis of GIS data and the preparation of GIS maps for the draft plan.

PARTICIPANTS¹ IN THE SONOITA VALLEY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Federal, State, and Local Agencies

Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office and Arizona State Office
Coronado National Forest, Nogales and Sierra Vista Ranger Districts
Natural Resource Conservation Service, Tucson Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Offices
U.S. Geological Survey, Tucson Office
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona State Land Department
Arizona State Parks
Pima County Flood Control, Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Zoning
Santa Cruz County Planning and Zoning

Organizations, Institutions, Businesses

(Generated from affiliations expressed by individual participants¹. These individuals may or may not have been officially representing the organization, institution, or business).

AEPCO
Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch
Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs
Arizona State University, Dept. of Plant

Biology,
Arizona Trail Association
ASARCO
County Line Riders of Catalina
El Paso Natural Gas
Empire Ranch
Empirita Ranch
Empire Ranch Foundation
Friends of Pronatura
High Haven Ranch
Huachuca Hiking Club
Phoenix Zoo
Pima NRCD
Rose Tree Ranch
Sierra Club, Rincon Group
Sky Island Alliance
Sonoita Bird Dog Club
Sonoita Crossroads Community Forum
Sonoita--Elgin Emergency Services
Sonoran Institute
Southern Arizona German Shorthair Pointer Club
Southern Arizona Mountain Bike Association
The Nature Conservancy
Tucson Saddle Club
Vera Earl Ranch
University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension
University of Arizona, School of Renewable Natural Resources

Individuals

Individual participants¹ came from the following Arizona communities: Benson, Elgin, Green Valley, Huachuca City, Mesa, Nogales, Phoenix, Sierra Vista, Sonoita, Tempe, Tucson, and Vail.

Mailing List

In addition to the above participants, persons and organizations from the following communities are on the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership mailing list.

¹Participants are defined as having attended at least one meeting or contacted the Planning Partnership at least once via mail or e-mail.

Chapter 5: Participants in the SVPP

ARIZONA:

Amado, Apache Junction, Bisbee, Camp Verde, Claypool, Hereford, Ft. Huachuca, Gilbert, Glendale, Kingman, Lakeside, Morenci, Parker, Patagonia, Peach Springs, Safford, Sahuarita, San Carlos, Scottsdale, Sells, Wilcox.

OTHER:

San Bernadino, CA; Bishop, CA; Washington, DC; Rockville, MD; Picayune, MS; Santa Fe, NM; Isopus, NY.

Chapter 5: List of Preparers

Catie Fenn, Outdoor Recreation Planner

A.A., Natural Sciences, Pima Community College; B.S., Resource Management, Northern Arizona University. Catie has 9 years of experience with BLM, 9 years with the National Park Service, and 4 years with the Forest Service. She prepared the outdoor recreation, visual resources, and wild and scenic rivers portions of the draft plan.

Mark Fredlake, Wildlife Biologist

B.S., Wildlife Biology, Arizona State University. Mark has worked for BLM for nearly 23 years. He prepared the wildlife portions of the draft plan.

Karen Simms, Ecosystem Planning Team Leader

B.S., Zoology, University of California, Davis; M.S., Wildlife Biology, University of Arizona. Karen has 11 years of experience with BLM. She served as team leader for the BLM interdisciplinary team that prepared the draft document and was the community facilitator for the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership, which worked with BLM on developing goals and objectives for the Sonoita Valley and in developing management proposals and generating alternatives for consideration.

Max Witkind, Archaeologist

B.A., Technical Journalism and M.S., Anthropology, Colorado State University. Max has worked for the BLM for 16 years in Colorado and Arizona and for 5 years with the Army Corps of Engineers in Arkansas. Before his government service he taught cultural and physical anthropology at San Antonio College in Texas (1971-1979). He prepared the cultural and paleontological resources sections of the draft document.

ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

Jeff Simms, Fishery Biologist

B.S., Fishery Science, University of Arizona;

M.S., Fishery and Wildlife Science, University of Arizona. Jeff has worked for the BLM for 9 years in the Safford and Tucson Field Offices and is now assigned to the Arizona State Office. He prepared the watershed, riparian, and fisheries sections of the draft document.

Jim Renthall, Natural Resources Specialist

B.A., Psychology, University of Chicago; M.S., Watershed Management, University of Arizona. Jim has worked for the BLM for 23 years in Arizona, Idaho, and Oregon. He prepared the air quality, water quality, and portions of the watershed sections of the draft document.

Gina Ramos, Natural Resource Specialist

B.S., Range Science, New Mexico State University, M.B.A., University of Phoenix. Gina has 19 years of service with the BLM. She prepared the socioeconomic, environmental justice, and noxious weeds section of the draft plan.

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Ken McGinty, Writer-Editor

B.A., History, Duke University; M.A., Geography, Clark University. A BLM writer-editor for 25 years, Ken edited the draft document.

TUCSON FIELD OFFICE SUPPORT

Mary Farber, Biological Technician

A.A., General Studies, Pima Community College. Mary is currently obtaining a B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Arizona. She has worked with the BLM for 1½ years, helping prepare for public meetings, preparing meeting minutes, conducting mailings, and performing other support tasks.